



Michigan Department of Transportation

Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program

What types of projects are competitive for TE funding?

Nonmotorized Category

- Nonmotorized facilities that:
 - connect and develop documented regional or statewide trail systems
 - are appropriate for the need and user types targeted
 - benefit state tourism or economic development initiatives
 - if locally significant, have strong transportation connection and involve planning efforts or serve as connectors to regional trails
 - are a priority on MDOT, county or regional trail plans
 - address documented safety deficiencies
 - are part of a broader non-TE funded nonmotorized system

Transportation Aesthetics Category

- Scenic Acquisitions that:
 - protect viewsheds of the Great Lakes and/or provide a benefit to state tourism
- Streetscapes that:
 - are located in traditional downtowns or historic districts
 - meet published MDOT streetscape guidelines
 - use a creative design approach and take into account the community identity, history, context, and the human environment
 - accomplish multiple goals (traffic calming, pedestrian safety, tied with other initiatives, water quality improvements, etc.)
 - receive input and support from citizens, local businesses, economic developers, traffic engineers, historians, etc.
- Highway Landscaping that:
 - defines a gateway to an important location
 - screens an area that creates a negative visual impact from the highway
 - accomplishes multiple goals (water quality improvements, native plants, traffic calming, etc.)

Historic Preservation Category

- Historic preservation projects that:
 - enhance National Register-listed historic districts, locally designated districts or National Heritage Areas
 - preserve original structure on site (off site if only option available for bridges)
 - promote cultural tourism

Water Quality Category

- Water Quality projects that:
 - will have a positive effect on important watersheds or water bodies with sensitive fisheries or that is not attaining the state water quality standards
 - include monitoring after implementation or projections of water quality improvement
 - are consistent with a local watershed management plan
 - include an inspection and maintenance schedule

Wildlife Mortality Category

- Wildlife Mortality projects that:
 - involve threatened or endangered species
 - improve safety by directly lowering vehicle/animal collisions
 - are research or study oriented in regards to design and highway planning



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What other factors make a project competitive for TE funding?

- **Financial factors:**
 - realistic expectations and cost
 - a high level of overmatch (40% and higher, ability to pay is considered)
 - non-participating work is determined to be a benefit to the TE project
- **Public input:**
 - projects receiving a high level of public input from multiple partners
- **Coordinated efforts:**
 - paired with other infrastructure work
 - part of an economic development or community improvement initiative
 - coordinated with statewide initiatives such as Cool Cities, Cities of Promise, the Safe Routes to School Program, Heritage Route or Scenic Byways Program
- **Maintenance factors:**
 - strong maintenance plan that speaks to tasks, schedule, cost, source of maintenance funding, and responsible parties
- **Previous TE funding:**
 - amount of TE investment in prior years
 - timely implementation and maintenance on previous projects

What items are ineligible for TE funding?

Eligible costs are those costs determined by federal TE program guidance and by MDOT to be consistent with achieving the intention of 12 activity categories set forth in the federal law. Some project development costs may meet the federal eligibility criteria but are ruled ineligible by MDOT for programmatic purposes — primarily to enable the limited TE funds to support more projects.

MDOT usually considers the following costs to be ineligible for funding:

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| ▪ Design engineering | ▪ Environmental clearance and mitigation |
| ▪ Construction engineering | ▪ Construction extras and cost overruns |
| ▪ Project administration | |

Various project elements also deemed ineligible for funding include the following:

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| ▪ Annual plantings | ▪ Electrical for tree lighting |
| ▪ Banners | ▪ Irrigation |
| ▪ Building facades (except for historic transportation buildings) | ▪ Items required as federal aid project mitigation |
| ▪ Burying utility lines | ▪ Public art |
| ▪ Clock towers | ▪ Speaker systems |
| ▪ Curb and gutter (negotiable in a water quality project) | ▪ Landscaping of property (as opposed to road ROW) |
| ▪ Decorative fountains | ▪ Wayfinding primarily for vehicular use |
| ▪ Decorative street signs | ▪ Welcome signs |

For many projects, these ineligible costs may be characterized as non-participating costs.